

Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kitakaze in view Boon. Boon does not teach the deficiencies of Kitakaze, as admitted on page 3 of the Office Action with respect to claim 22, as well as the further limitations contained therein. Therefore, a rejection over Kitakaze in view of Boon is defective.

Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-233261

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